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# THE MENTOR

POLAND  
OLD AND NEW

By  
RUTH KEDZIE WOOD

DEPARTMENT OF  
HISTORY AND TRAVEL

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# POLAND—Symbol of Freedom

By GEORGE BRANDES

OLD Field-Marshal Moltke one day said that, in a book he had read about Poland, he had been most pleased by this sentence: "We do not love Poland as we love Germany or France or England, but as we love Freedom"; a very curious remark from the lips of one whom one would not suspect of loving freedom overmuch.

We love Poland as we love Freedom. For what is it to love Poland but to love Freedom, to have a deep sympathy with misfortune, and to admire courage and enthusiasm? Poland is a symbol—a symbol of all that the best of the human race have loved, and for which they have fought. In Poland the contrasts of human life are found in bold relief; here the cosmos is concentrated as in an essence.

Everywhere in Europe where there has been any fighting, the Poles have taken part in it, on all battlefields, on all the barricades. They have sometimes been mistaken in their views of the enterprises to which they lent their arms; but they believed that they were fighting for the good of humanity; they regarded themselves as the bodyguard of Freedom, and still look on everyone that fights for Freedom as a brother.

Poland, in the historical development of relations, has become synonymous with our hope or our illusion as to the advance of our age in culture. Its future coincides with the future of Civilization.

From "Poland, A Study of the Land, People and Literature."

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## T H E M E N T O R

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# POLAND, OLD AND NEW

By RUTH KEDZIE WOOD

*Author of "The Tourist's Russia," "Spain and Portugal," et cetera*

MENTOR  
GRAVURES

IN THE HIGH  
TATRAS

THE GLEANER

THE TOWN HALL  
AND THE  
CLOTH MARKET,  
CRACOW



THE WAWEL, CRACOW  
The Westminster Abbey of Poland

MENTOR  
GRAVURES

POLONIA

OPERA HOUSE  
AND THEATER,  
WARSAW

MONUMENT TO  
COPERNICUS,  
WARSAW



"*OW well does Monsieur know Poland?*" The question drew our attention to a corner of the compartment where a young woman of engaging appearance sat opposite a Russian officer. She was slight, and had corn-colored hair done in two coils above her ears, and her eyes were as blue as the flowers that grow among the corn-stalks. The blue of them deepened as she leaned forward and tapped the book in her lap. "Do you know *this* Poland—the Poland of Sobieski and Kosciuszko, and Skarga and Mickiewicz and Matejko and Chopin—yes, and Pilsudski—or do you know only the Poland your Government would have you know? Your Government—" A train policeman looked in inquiringly from the corridor. "Mademoiselle has been out of Poland of late," warned the officer. "She may have forgotten how easily the gates of the Warsaw citadel swing inward." The Polish mademoiselle turned the pages of her book. "No, I have not forgotten," she said. "Every month since I have been away I have sent a letter to be forwarded to that citadel. My brother is there, in one of those teeming black cells—underground—" "Then all the more reason to be discreet," replied the officer, smiling.

He rose and buckled on his belt and sword. "I bid you good-day," bowing to each of us, in the mannerly Russian way. "The engine is



blowing for Brest-Litovsk." "Pardon," corrected the lady, "for Brzesc-Litewski." And she summoned a dewy smile. "Ah, you Poles!" exclaimed the Russian, with a glance that warmed into admiration. "Will you never give up?"

## *Tripartite Poland*

When we confessed to the blue-eyed student our anxiety to know more about Poland, immediately she took an interest in us. Through the window we saw the old and unlovely town whose chief features of interest to the stranger are the fortifications. In the time of our first visit to Poland, before the War, Russia boasted of the great bulwark of Brest-Litovsk as an impassable barrier between her and her enemies on the western frontier. As we journeyed the hundred and twenty miles to Warsaw our companion told us many interesting things about the vast wind-swept plain to the north and south, and of the country to the east and west of it, that once had been Poland's. We were traversing the part Russia took for her share when Poland was apportioned, in 1795, among the three nations that clamored for her, "for the heart and soul and body of her." "And ever since," said Mademoiselle J., "we Poles have been like three orphaned children, separated and forced to live with foster



From a painting by Juliusz Kossak

JOHN SOBIESKI

King of Poland and Deliverer of Vienna from the Turks (1683)



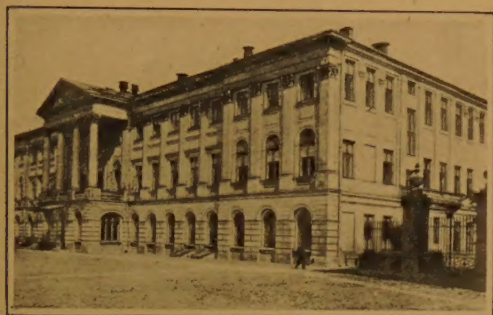
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THE LAZIENKI PARK AND PALACE, WARSAW

Residence of the last King of Poland—Stanislaus Poniatowski, who, in 1795, was forced to sign away the birthright of his country

parents we hated and distrusted, and who hated and distrusted us, and did all that ingenuity could dictate to break down our spirit, and take away our love for each other, and for the place where we were born. Those of us that have lived under the Russian roof have been forbidden to study in our own language, or sing our own songs, or carry on our business in our own way. Austria has been a little less the tyrant. Prussia!—I cannot speak of it. When will it end?"





WARSAW UNIVERSITY

Closed during the Russian régime, but open again after the creation of the new republic, when Polish students were once more given the privilege of taking the courses in their own language

## *New Poland*

When we analyze the benefits of the War, one of the most thrilling things that came out of the ruck and destruction is to me the re-uniting of Poland. Once more, as in many centuries gone, she opposes her strength to unruly forces in the East—attempts to stem the barbaric wave that would engulf Civilization.

The Supreme Council, sitting in Paris in 1919, drew the eastern frontier of the new Polish Republic from

Tarnapol, in the south, to Brest-Litovsk, Grodno, Wilno, and Dwinsk, in Lithuania. The Austrian barriers were eradicated: the provinces in the south came again into possession of the hereditary owners. Prussia was forced to evacuate the Grand Duchy of Posen and lands adjacent. These boundaries, demarked by the Council, are subject to revision. A Polish army of three hundred thousand men has been fighting far to the east of Brest-Litovsk to wrest from Russia the territory that formerly belonged to Poland, including "White Russia," and the Ukraine, the province of the Cossack kingdom, over which Poland once held sovereignty.

The Poles are called, by some, "imperialistic," "land hungry," because they have reached out for this additional territory. They reply, "It was our right to take back as much as we had the might to take of what was Poland's before the first partition in 1772; but ours was a greater mission—to drive back and hold the avalanche of the Red armies. If we could have done so, we should have served Civilization as Sobieski and his handful of Polish troops served it two and a half centuries ago, in ridding Europe forever of the Turk."

From the infancy of the nation, the people of Poland have stood for the principles of individualism. They have bled for liberty on their own soil, and have freely given of their blood to help others win freedom. They were always engaged in riding down the dragon of Autocracy. It was their persistent and lively insistence on the rights of the plain people that invited their downfall. Germany, Austria, Russia were glad to pretend that the Poles were troublesome neighbors, quarreling on the other side of the boundary fence. So, in 1772, and 1793, and, definitely in 1795, they reached over



THE BRISTOL HOTEL, WARSAW

Paderewski, the pianist, and ex-Premier of Poland, is the chief stockholder



the fence, and by force and intrigue divided the Polish estate. Poland was erased from the map of Europe. Her people were no longer reckoned a nation. A learned publicist has said that this seizure, by upsetting the moral and physical equilibrium of the continent, was the direct cause of Europe's most disastrous war, a dozen decades later.



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THE GREAT FACTORY TOWN OF LODZ  
Center of the Polish textile industry

## *The Charms of Warsaw*

Georg Brandes, the Danish critic and lecturer, was once staying in the house of some Polish friends when someone chanced to remark that "patriotism was nowadays greatly lacking in Poland." "The gentleman contradicted him, but the ladies—it was quite a spectacle to see them. With flaming eyes and blazing cheeks they stood round him, and their voices trembled in refuting him. We soon agreed that if this flame was

not burning in the hearts of the women, the enemies of Poland would long ago have got the upper hand." Another writer avows, "If the Polish eagle has never yet been tamed; if it has borne its captivity and its wounds, but refused to become domesticated, it is because the Polish women have nursed it and kept before it the scent of the upper air and the love of liberty."

Mademoiselle J. was this type of vivid, devoted Polish woman. With her as our companion, we saw first and most comprehensively the historic buildings and monuments in which Warsaw abounds. The city grew up about a fort, erected in the thirteenth century on the banks of the Vistula—a gray and melancholy flood that has wound its way through all the story of Poland. In the sixteenth century Warsaw supplanted Cracow (kraj-koof) as capital of the Polish state. Many statues have been raised to patriots that fought for



THE TOWN HALL OF POSEN

Is the most beautiful example of municipal architecture in Poland



# POLAND, OLD AND NEW

Poland in epochs preceding the Partitions. One monument that is a great favorite with the people is the figure of Copernicus the astronomer, sculptured by Thorvaldsen. The statue of the beloved poet, Adam Mickiewicz (mits-kee-ev'-ich), is another object of popular pilgrimage. We imagine one of the first things the Poles will do, if Warsaw is finally to remain their own, will be to raise a national memorial to Kosciuszko (ko-shosh'-ko), the fiery hero who led the insurrection against the tripartite government in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Under

Russian rule it was forbidden to set up such a monument, for reasons quite satisfactory to tyrants.

Near the river bank is the one-time palace of Polish kings. Kings are out of fashion in Poland now, but the Zamek is a classic reminder of days when warrior-monarchs ruled Poland brilliantly and well. When you are in this neighborhood, you go on a little way to the Old Market, with its setting of high, red-roofed houses, and its shifting crowds of the city's poor. Down here, amid a tangle of medieval alleys, is the squalid quarter of the Jews, a race very numerous in Poland since the Middle Ages, when they were invited to find refuge in this country from intolerance and persecution.



FAIR DAUGHTERS OF POLAND

We had been several days at the Hotel Bristol, which enthusiastic travelers have called "the best hotel in Europe," when we learned the name of our landlord. It was none other than Ignace Jan Paderewski! American dollars, earned by the magic of slim dreamy hands, made possible this agreeable hostelry. We rode in an Otis elevator when we went to our beautifully arranged suite of rooms; and there were other reminders of our country in the furnishings and conveniences of the Bristol.

One evening we drove from the hotel to see a performance in the great theater



VISTA OF LWOW (LEMBERG)

Formerly capital of the Austrian province of Galicia. Lwów has three cathedrals (Roman Catholic, Armenian and United Greek), and an important university. Founded in the 13th century, Lwów has been a prized trophy in wars of the Poles, Russians, Swedes, Turks, Austrians and Germans. By the Treaty of Versailles (1919) the city was restored to the Poles



building that stands opposite the City Hall, and bulks high among modish shops and open-air restaurants. The low-hung *droskey* held three persons, and the fare for a drive of several blocks was twelve cents. The theater of the national drama and a variety theater occupy the two long wings that flank a lofty central edifice, where opera is given in the winter season. The Poles have a strong artistic bond with America in the memory of Helena Modrzejewska, the tragedienne, long admired on this side of the Atlantic as the gifted and beautiful "Modjeska." It was Modjeska's habit to return every year or so to Cracow, her native city, and to Warsaw, to play before her own people; just as Paderewski (pah-der-eff'-skee), the incomparable pianist, and the De Reszke (resh-ke) brothers, world-famous tenor and baritone, used to arrange annual benefit performances in the metropolis for Polish charities.

The Poles are extremely fond of music. One hears the lilt of song and twang of instruments in parks and by-ways, often accompanied by the quick step of dancers' feet. Together, the two national songs of Poland give a true impression of the Polish character. One, "the Polish Marseillaise," was written shortly after the dismemberment of the state, and bravely sings of a Poland "not yet lost. . . . March, march! It is joy to live, to sing, to fight!" The other song came into being after the Galician massacres of 1846, and extols the sacred love of country in psalmlike measure.

One of the shrines dearest to Poland is the Church of the Holy Cross, Warsaw, where Chopin's (sho-pan) heart is buried. The most renowned of Polish geniuses was born forty miles west of the capital, in a village on the Vistula. His body sleeps beneath the trees in Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris. But Poland, as in life, has his heart.

Two magnificent royal parks add to the charms of Warsaw. The Lazienki estate, on the outskirts, is as redolent of bygone days as a fine garment laid among faint sachets. Revelry and Artifice peek from windows under the chateau's square portico. Extravagance flaunts her skirts in the orangery. The sly flutter of the trees hints at cabal and secret loves. Wit and Song in the shroud of Time speak their lines among



A VILLAGE CHURCH  
The architecture is typically Polish

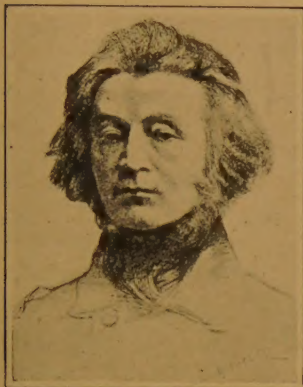


From a portrait by Ary Scheffer

FREDERIC CHOPIN

Born at Zelazowa-Wola, Poland,  
February 22, 1810; died in Paris,  
October 17, 1849





From a portrait by Horowitz

ADAM MICKIEWICZ

Most inspired of Poland's poets.  
Born in Lithuania, December 24,  
1798; died at Constantinople, No-  
vember 26, 1855

the Corinthian pillars of the outdoor stage. In the rotunda of the amphitheater across a glassy stream stroll the spirits of belles and gallants of the last days of monarchical Poland. They drove from the town, as one may still, out the long avenue of lime trees, past villas and gardens, to the Park and Palace of the Baths (Lazienki). Poniatowski, favorite of Catherine the Great of Russia, commanded their creation. They came into being to please an exquisite. Today, the old Poland of finesse, sparkle, ambition and intrigue, haunts the copses of Lazienki, and gropes, complaining, through salons where portraits of dead beauties smile unseen.

Beyond a level reach of grain fields lies the village of Willanov (vil-lan-off) where the ancient Polish parliament used to meet, with spectacular ceremonies. The beautiful palace of Willanow was the country home of King John Sobieski. The outer walls are covered with paintings representing his many victories against the Russians and the Turks.

A City Planning Committee has been organized by Polish architects and engineers for the purpose of modernizing Warsaw, which now has a population of a million people. An expenditure of \$100,000,000 is contemplated to cover the remodeling of the city, the construction of subways for passenger traffic, the building of workmen's houses, and the restoration of the great bridge over the river, between Warsaw and the historic suburb of Praga. This fine, comparatively new bridge was destroyed during the War. Otherwise, Warsaw, most fortunately, suffered little damage from the guns of the contending armies.

## *Industrial Poland*

Geographically, Warsaw is at the center of Europe. But Russia has so much more the oriental habit than the occidental that we may say Warsaw is the first really Western city on the route that connects Asia with Europe,



THE HOLY GATE, WILNO

A feature of special interest in the ancient capital of the Lithuanians



via the Trans-Siberian Railway. Merchants from both continents meet here to trade. Besides, there are many large manufactories in Warsaw. Lodz, to the east of the capital, has advanced in three decades from an insignificant village to a city of half a million people, whose life is regulated by the clack of spindles and the whir of weaving machines. In the districts of Lodz and Warsaw the textile industry became of chief importance through the assistance of the Russian Government in granting free land to mill owners. Out of 400,000 laborers in former Russian Poland, 150,000 are employed in textile mills, and half of these in cotton mills. Labor is cheap. Wages scale from ten dollars a day for highly skilled workers to a dollar and a half for unskilled labor.



THE WELL

Occupies a pivotal position in Polish villages

With the reopening of mills closed and damaged during German occupation, the production of textiles is approaching pre-war quantity. It is said by a representative in the United States of the Polish Textile Industries that Poland will purchase many millions of dollars' worth of American cotton during the season of 1920. Imports will be made through the free port of Danzig, the old-time city on the Baltic, near the mouth of the Vistula, recently recovered from Germany. For three hundred years preceding the last Partition Danzig was under Polish protection. To the Poles it is known as *Gdansk*. Ships will soon be carrying away from its great docks grain, potatoes and beet sugar grown in the fields of Poland.

Wilno, formerly capital of Lithuania, is a centuries-old center of culture, religion and commerce, now chiefly inhabited by Jews. It was here that a Polish king founded one of the first universities in eastern Europe. Kosciuszko, Mickiewicz and many other famous Poles were natives of this important northern province of Lithuania.

Poznan (Prussian, *Posen*) is a clean, well-kept city, and one of the handsomest we saw in the Polish provinces. Substantial public buildings, and florid dwellings erected by Germans enriched by a long residence on Polish soil, adorn the broad attractive thoroughfares. Gnesno, a short distance off, was the first capital of Old Poland, and for five centuries kings were crowned there. But Poznan was the chosen

seat of early monarchs, and the cathedral is sanctified to the nation by the presence of the tombs of Mieszko I, the first king, who ruled a thousand years ago, and Boleslaus the Brave, his robust son.

With the exception of the vast mineral fields of Upper Silesia, the four provinces of Poland seized in 1795 by Germany are principally given over to farming. Poznan is the headquarters of the most powerful organization in Poland—the Union of Co-operative Societies, which represents thousands of Polish traders and farmers. Father Adamski, a priest of unusual attainments, and a member of the Polish Diet, is head of the Union, comprising nearly five hundred communal associations, each of



A HOME-MADE-POTTERY MARKET

In a little community among the Tatras



# POLAND, OLD AND NEW



Photograph by courtesy of W. T. Benda

## THATCHED ROOFS

Shelter the homes of native farmers

cow. A third of the industrial workers in this section are engaged in spinning, weaving, making garments, and fashioning articles from wood and straw, in home workshops.

## On the Way to Cracow

Traveling down to Cracow, twelve hours distant from Warsaw, we turn a highly-colored page in Poland's story in making a visit to the fortified town of Czenstochowa (chens-to-ko'-va), which lies midway between the capital and the venerable old city in the south. On a commanding elevation, above the straggling garrison town lately evacuated by the lusty troops of the Russian Czar, is posed with sculptur-esque effect the Church of the Exalted Mountain, *Jasna* (yas-na) *Gora*, which Poles have worshiped and defended for these many centuries. Most vigorously they defended it when the great Charles Augustus, King of Sweden, overwhelmed this part of Poland with sixty thousand troops, in the year 1655, and would have added the stronghold of Czenstochowa to his victories at Warsaw and Cracow. When the conqueror threatened to despoil the richly dowered church on the height, the Poles repelled him with zealous fury. In this fortress-church it is a tradition that the Virgin Mary has appeared to the faithful, and many miracles have come to pass. During the summer the roads that lead to the mecca of the Poles are thronged by dusty devotees, who journey from far with banners and offerings to make obeisance before the shrine of the miraculous image of the Virgin. The image is so thickly jeweled and so massively adorned with gold that there is none other in the world to surpass it in value. Copies of the figure, bearing on the cheek the marks of Tatar arrows, carry the name of *Jasna Gora* into most of the homes of fervent Poland.

You are not long in Cracow before the illusion fastens itself upon you that you are moving upon a stage, set with fantastic and suggestive scenery. The drama of Cracow has been played for hundreds of years by the temperamental Poles, for whom the city expresses all that is nearest and dearest in national life. Old walls, squares, gates, buttresses and spires are more than architectural creations. They are symbols, reminders of siege and conquering entry; they have witnessed heroic gestures on the banks of the musing Vistula!

which supports a People's Bank. The Union Bank, with deposits of close on to \$100,000,000, furnished three-fourths of the first loan to the Republic, and, through its many branches, is aiding farmers, merchants and manufacturers to build up the financial structure of New Poland.

In Upper Silesia, and in Galicia, formerly an Austrian-Polish province, there are valuable mineral beds of great extent, including an immensely rich coal basin and productive oil fields, which are the basis of the country's industrial production, and guarantee the future economic independence of Poland.

The largest and busiest cities of the south are Lwow (lwoof), or Lemberg, and Cracow.



## AT ZAKOPANE

The mountaineers turn their sheepskin coats inside out in the summer-time "to keep the sun off"



Krakus, a mighty chief, came down from the Carpathian Mountains in the sixth century, overcame a dragon on the hill called Wawel (vah-vel), built himself a fort, and, incidentally, bequeathed his name to the settlement that came to life under the walls of the primitive stronghold. Here, on this hill, is enshrined the very soul of the nation. Polish children are reared with the ambition to go at least once in their lives to the cathedral, hemmed in by the high four-towered wall, which encloses, also, a royal palace and a small community of houses and offices, much as the Kremlin at Moscow comprises churches and palaces intimately associated with Russia's story.

The interior of the cathedral and its memorial chapels are fairly encrusted with carvings and precious stones and metals. But the place of pilgrimage supreme is the crypt which holds the tombs of most of the Polish kings, of Jan Sobieski, conqueror of the Turks at Vienna, of Kosciuszko, the international hero, and of Mickiewicz, who suffered exile for his country, and wrote verses that glow like an immortal flame in the hearts of his countrymen.

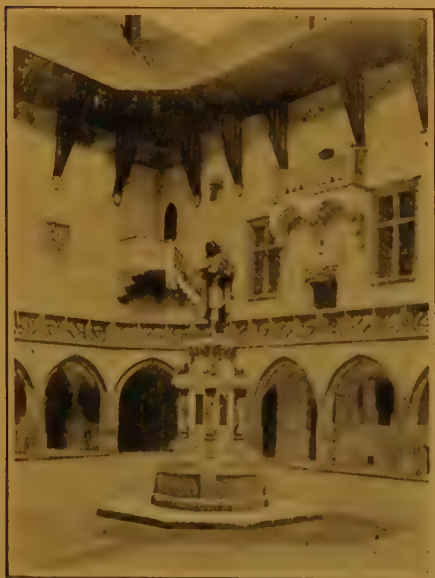
For years the Austrians used the palace of Polish kings as a barracks, and regularly, in the interests of cleanliness, they whitewashed walls that had been decorated by the brush of celebrated medieval artists. Within the last decade the palace was given back to the Galician Poles, who received considerations from the Emperor of Austria never accorded by the rulers of Russian and Prussian Poland. Layer by layer the dried lime was removed from the walls by patient hands. After years of labor the paintings were disclosed—unharmful, for the most part, because so ruthlessly protected.

To see the life of Cracow the visitor promenades on the flowery boulevard called the Plantations, or "Planty," to use the local nickname. "I remember," Madame Modjeska once wrote, "when I was a young aspirant for dramatic honors, I used to

rise at five o'clock in the morning, take my part with me, and walk up and down in the shade of the wide-branched trees, studying my lines." The *rynek*, or market place, is another popular center. Here brightly dressed girls, priests, Jews in their long coats, goose and vegetable vendors, compose the picture, offset by the high tower of the City Hall and the arcades and turrets of the ancient Cloth Hall, an edifice of unique and handsome design and enormous size. Once, half a million people occupied the houses of patrician Cracow. To-day there are perhaps a fifth as many people living beneath its slant roofs, and stirring in its narrow streets. Students hurrying on their way to classes at the university remind us that so Copernicus once passed through these thoroughfares, intent on his studies in anatomy and the mapping of the stars. The university, now in its five hundred and fifty-seventh year of existence, is one of the great, great grandmothers of European learning. In normal times, the number of its students, both native and foreign, is considerably over three thousand.



A MOUNTAIN LAD AND HIS PONY  
The costume is characteristic



THE COPERNICUS MONUMENT  
Within the ornate and beautiful court of the University Library, Cracow



P O L A N D ,   O L D   A N D   N E W

Among the experiences we most enjoyed in Cracow—so prolific in sight-seeing pleasures, were the visits we paid to the National Museum, on the upper floor of the huge Cloth Hall. Here, and also in the magnificent and greatly beloved Church of the Virgin Mary, on the *rynek*, there is a display of native art, including works by Matejko, a Cracovian by birth, whose remarkable canvases are referred to in the monograph on "Art and Music."

Americans, mindful of the devotion of Thaddeus Kosciuszko to the cause of Liberty as adjutant to General Washington in the Revolution, and of his skilful services in planning the Military Academy, at West Point, make a pilgrimage to the Kosciuszko Mound, enclosed now within fortress walls erected by the Austrians. The mound, on the outskirts of Cracow, is composed of soil brought to this hill-top landmark from every province in Poland, and from all the battlefields on which Kosciuszko wielded his sword in defense of Freedom.

A thoroughly Polish resort is Zakopane. A train mounts to it in six hours from Cracow. Thoroughly Polish, and greatly diverting, in contrast with the drab plains and impoverished little villages that spread about the base of the looming Carpathians. For scenery, there are not far distant glacier peaks, and lakes, and forested precipices. The mountaineers, dark, straight-featured, very fond of songs, dances and gay colors, tend

sheep, act as guides, make pottery, and sell it in open market places in their hamlets, nested high among the cold white and green Tatras. On Sunday, groups, vivid as the rainbow, gather for gallantries and games. Affairs of commerce, love and religion are conducted in a language quite their own.

When you are at Zakopane, the principal thing to do is to make an excursion to a lake widely famed in Poland, the "Eye of the Sea." It is set, round and clear, at the foot of unsmiling slopes, where only the fir tree clings in defiance of storm and grinding ice—the fir tree, ever green, symbol of the tenacity and fortitude of the unconquerable Polish spirit.



Courtesy, Literary Digest

BOUNDARIES OF NEW POLAND

Fixed and tentative. The territory of what is known as "Poland proper" is embraced by the straight and the dotted lines

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

HISTORY OF POLAND FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT - By F. E. Whitton

POLAND AND THE POLES - - - - - By A. Bruce Boswell

POLAND OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY - - - - - By N. O. Winter

POLAND, A STUDY OF THE LAND, PEOPLE AND LITERATURE - - - By Georg Brandes\*

POLAND, THE KNIGHT AMONG NATIONS - - - - - By Louis Van Norman\*

SKETCHES IN POLAND - - - - - By Frances D. Little

THE TOURIST'S RUSSIA, with Chapters on Poland - - - - - By Ruth Kedzie Wood

\*Out of print, but may be found in libraries.

\* \* \* Information concerning the above books may be had on application to the Editor of The Mentor.



# T H E O P E N L E T T E R

To those that read the story of General Joseph Pilsudski, he seems the living embodiment of the free, romantic, adventurous spirit of his country. He was born in 1867 in the province of Lithuania. His was the kind of land-owning, freedom-loving family that Mickiewicz, the poet, interpreted in his epic of Lithuanian life, "Lord Thaddeus." As a young man Pilsudski swore to dedicate himself to the cause of securing independence for Poland.

★ ★ ★

In 1885 the youthful patriot entered the University of Cracow. Expelled because of his political activities, Pilsudski gathered about him a group who were intent on preparing for a day when revolution against Russia might be begun. One by one members of the group were arrested and sent to Siberia. There in the cold and dismal North Pilsudski remained in exile for five years.

When he was released he returned at once to Wilno, capital of Lithuania, and set about forming a Polish Socialistic party, whose basic creed was freedom for Poland. Four years later he was again arrested. This time he was removed to the military prison in Petrograd. Here he remained for another five anxious, monotonous years. With the aid of a friendly physician, he finally made an ingenious escape by tunneling his way out of the prison hospital. As soon as he was free, he lost no time in organizing a new force of two thousand revolutionists, sworn to implicit obedience to him, and tested for their absolute bravery under all conditions. Their every act had a definite purpose—to embarrass the Russians in their plans for mobilization in case of a Polish revolution. Pilsudski, however, soon came to realize that a revolution at that time was impossible, so he gradually withdrew his forces.

Then, in 1914, came the World War, and Germany and Austria were not slow to recognize the value of Pilsudski's Polish Legion in their onslaught against their

common enemy, Russia. They aided in the recruiting, so that the total of his troops quickly swelled to many thousands. In 1915, when the Germans entered Warsaw, Pilsudski gave orders that there should be no more recruiting for the Legion. Germany, learning of his activity in organizing a secret military force, made up of loyal Poles, insisted that the men of Pilsudski's Legion should swear allegiance to the flags of Austria and Germany. This was in 1917. The legionnaires in Warsaw were ordered on parade; the oath was read to them and their officers were commanded to repeat it.

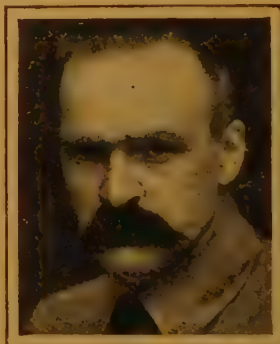
As one man they stepped forward, broke their swords across their knees and stood with their arms folded. Immediately they were placed under arrest and imprisoned.

When the regency government of free Poland had been established, Pilsudski, released from the German fortress of Magdeburg, assumed the portfolio of Secretary of War. He ordered the enemy troops disarmed and interned. And when the regency resigned, General Pilsudski, who had been at

the head of the army, was appointed chief executive of the Polish Republic.

★ ★ ★

Paderewski, whose loyalty and self-sacrificing patriotism no one can question, resigned from the premiership after unsuccessfully attempting to bring the Polish parliament into agreement with him, either in matters of foreign policy or in internal affairs. To the great patriot-pianist, in retreat on the shores of Lake Geneva in Switzerland, came an urgent appeal from the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs to present Poland's case at the congress of the Allies at Spa, Belgium, in July, 1920. Thanks to the eloquence of his plea, France and England have given assurance of armed assistance to the Poles, if the Red hordes refuse to stay their advance beyond the borders of New Poland, which were established at the Paris Conference.



GENERAL JOSEPH PILSUDSKI  
Called "The Strong Man of Poland"

*W. S. Moffat*  
EDITOR





IN THE HIGH TATRAS—CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS



**K**ING Alfred the Great, who lighted the torch of education in England ten centuries ago, was one of the first to describe "Vistula-land," the wide-spreading plain watered by the River Vistula. Most of the early story of Poland is so overlaid with the embroidery of legend that the pattern of historical fact is difficult to trace.

One of the tales most popularly quoted relates to the founding of the three main divisions of the Slav family by a semi-mythical trio of brothers, Lech, Czech, and Russ. The Poles are supposed to have descended from Lech. Pliny and Tacitus, the Roman authors, and Ptolemy, the Egyptian geographer, mentioned the Slavs as having settled north of the Carpathian Mountains in the first and second centuries after Christ. We know that in the ninth century the Polanes, the Wislanes, the Silesians, and four other civilized tribes occupied the borders of the Vistula and the Oder, and that the Polanes were among the most prosperous and progressive of these early peoples. Narratives set down a thousand years ago have a familiar ring to readers of today: they describe with striking frequency the invasion of German hordes, and the vigorous repulse of these enemies by the freedom-loving Poles.

The word *pole* means "a field." Polska, or Poland, is the country of the fields, or plains. The sea and mountain-bordered expanse that composed the Polish state of olden times filled an enormous basin as broad as the distance from London to Vienna, and as long as the number of miles between Edinburgh and Berlin. The chief physical features of the country may be represented as comprising five strata, with a general easterly and westerly trend.

The southern strata is made up of the Carpathian Mountains and their allied peaks, the harsh and craggy Tatras. In this mountain region, known in recent times as part of Galicia, are great stores of mineral wealth. Sweeping northward from the base of the Carpathians are four principal plateaus, between the Upper Oder River and the borders of the Black Sea.

In the center stretch immense steppes, or prairies, furrowed by the valleys of the Upper Oder, the Vistula, the Niemen, and the Dwina (dvee-nah'), which empty into the Baltic Sea; and the Pruth, Dniester (dnees'-ter), Bug (boog) and Dnieper (dneep'-er), which have their end in the Black Sea. These great rivers form the main topographical characteristics of the Polish Plain. In the north there is an unbroken expanse of lakes, swamps and highlands; and, beyond these, the indented shore of the Baltic.

Originally, much of this open country

was covered with forests, which served as barriers against other European nations. The trees have for the most part disappeared. Across the cleared spaces acres of wheatlands spread away like a golden sea to distant frontiers.

The cradle of the Polish state is Great Poland and Kujawia, that part of the territory which, before the World War, included the Grand Duchy of Posen, in Germany, and the western part of Russian Poland. Here Polish nationality had its birth. In this region were established the first capitals of the kingdom. Chief among the towns on the eastern plateau is Lwow (Lemberg), which, after the third partition of Poland, became the capital of the Austrian-Polish province of Galicia.

Cracow, also in Galicia, occupies a treasured place among the southern hills, on the plateau of Lesser Poland. The national capital, Warsaw, on the banks of the Vistula, has arisen in the midst of industrial Poland. Warsaw and Lodz are two of the most important manufacturing centers in eastern Europe. The capital of Lithuania, in the north, is the old city of Wilno, or Vilna. Once, a long time back, Danzig was the chief port of Poland, and the Poles hope it may become so again. According to the terms of the Peace Treaty, it is a free port.

A. Bruce Boswell, author of the recently published volume, "Poland and the Poles," summarizes the natural divisions of the country, from the Polish point of view, as follows:

*Poland proper*, containing Great Poland, Lesser Poland, Mazovia, and the lower Vistula region.

*Lithuania*, comprising the Niemen basin, i.e., the provinces of Kovno and Wilno.

*White Russia*—the provinces of Grodno, Minsk and Mohylew.

*The Ukraine*, comprising eastern Galicia and the provinces of Volhynia, Podolia and Kiev.

Once more, in the words of Mr. Boswell, "the whole of the Polish state is in the melting-pot, and, while the revival of an independent Poland is certain, its relations to the nationalities between Poland and Russia is still undecided, and will revive the bitterest political and racial animosities."





TOWER OF THE TOWN HALL, AND THE CLOTH MARKET, CRACOW



ACTIVE and ardent, courageous and chivalrous, hospitable and charitable," the Poles are possessed of a flaming personality. Ardor for liberty and courage to fight for it against crushing odds have characterized them through the centuries. Their love of country has become a symbol, a gauge by which the patriotism of other

nations is measured—their traditions of freedom a creed recognized the world over.

The heroic ideals and poetic imagination of the Polish people have sometimes brought judgment upon them as "impractical," as "dreamers," and inefficient executives. The minds of all Slavonic peoples are too readily open to theories. They are inclined to dwell at greater length on the way of doing a thing than on the doing of it. In Russia, before the fall of autocracy, the chief officials of great institutions, and the active heads of important departments in the Government, were usually of Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic stock. As a race, the Slavs are not successful organizers. They are zealous and capable when guided by level-headed leaders. But Poland has too often been the victim of selfish, visionary leadership. Great patriotic issues have been confused by the existence of contentious parties, whose purpose has been to further the advantage of a class, rather than that of the people at large.

That the Poles are conscious of these faults in their national make-up is evidenced by the existence of a popular legend that has been narrated in poetry, prose and drama. "Many, many years ago," one writer begins, "the King of the Poles, seeing that the all-Mother (Poland) was grievously ill, consulted with doctors, but all to no purpose. A certain prophetess declared that three brothers, to each of whom she gave a portion of a flute, must travel together over seven mountains and seven rivers until they came to a certain peak in the Carpathians. There they must put the pieces together and blow. In response, King Boleslaus the Brave and his armored knights would wake from their sleep, would come once more forth to conquer, and the land would be restored to its ancient splendor. However, the brothers, represented in the dramatized legend as *Aristocracy*, *Bourgeoisie*, and *Peasantry*, could not agree on which one should blow the flute. Each thought himself entitled to that honor. So the cure was not effected; and the knights slept on."

An English scholar and author who has spent many years in Poland declares, "If we acquaint ourselves with Polish habits we will find more in common with our own Anglo-Saxon mode of life than in any other country. Polish history, the Polish manner of life, Polish thought and literature, are in their broad lines akin to our own, though they differ considerably in detail, owing to the different conditions of our existence. The chief characteristic of the Pole is his sturdy individualism. This quality reveals itself in his private life, in his strong self-expression sometimes bordering on fantasy, in his impatience of discipline and control; it is seen in the lives of Polish men of science and artists; it runs riot in the history of Polish state-making. . . . A fervent attachment to individual rights is still deeply implanted in the Polish character: and in every parliament, society, or school where there are Poles, they have struggled obstinately for rights against authority.

"The Pole is distinguished for his receptivity of all ideas. . . . He is intensely self-critical, and is ready to admit the superiority of other institutions and methods to his own." The proverbial tolerance of the Poles toward alien customs and religions has been contradicted in recent times by their contemptuous attitude toward the Jews. They resent Jewish activities against the native gentry, and as usurers in peasant villages. The Jews, who have for centuries dwelt in Poland in great numbers, are restive under new and harsh laws, and accuse the Poles of inspiring attack and even massacre.

Foreigners so fortunate as to be entertained in cultured Polish homes are captivated by the hospitality and vivacious kindness of their hosts. On acquaintance with representative members of Polish society, one discovers, "beneath the more dazzling virtues of the Polish race, a dogged spirit which accounts for the amazing success of their long struggle against the enemies of the nation."





MONUMENT TO COPERNICUS. BY THORVALDSEN. WARSAW



WHO was Mikolaj Kopernik? If we describe him as a scientist of equal rank with Galileo and Newton; the author of the master treatise, "Revolution of the Heavenly Bodies," and the founder of modern astronomy, there will be many to exclaim, "Ah no! That was Copernicus!" But Copernicus was Mikolaj Kopernik. He

was a Pole—the greatest astronomer of his age, and the first to establish the theory that the earth and the planets revolved around the fixed orbit of the sun.

He was born at Torun (Thorn), February 19, 1473. When he went to Cracow University he Latinized his name, and, as Nicolaus Copernicus, became a student of medicine and mathematics. During forty years of research in astronomy he developed his theory concerning the movement of the stars and the planets. When his great manuscript, that had been twenty-seven years in the writing, was finally completed, he sent it to Nuremberg to be printed. A short time before his death, at the age of seventy, he received the book in hands that trembled with joy. In the cathedral at Torun, and in Warsaw and Cracow there are memorials to the memory of the illustrious geographer of the heavens, who was proud to call himself "Copernicus, Polanus," a Pole.

In the sixteenth century the fame of her intellectuals gave Poland a standing equal to that of Italy. The great University of Wilno became, as it has remained, a center of scientific progress. Philosophers, investigators, historians of the highest attainments have been trained at the Universities of Wilno, Warsaw, Cracow and Lwow. The repressive laws of Russia forced many savants to live abroad—to the gain of foreign universities. Some found refuge in Cracow, where the Austrian Government showed a tolerant attitude toward men of learning, and permitted the Polish language to be used in courses of instruction. The Academy of Science, Cracow, is the pivotal organization for the study of science in its many branches. Each year, the Jerzmanowski Prize of about nine thousand dollars is awarded to a Pole "who has particularly distinguished himself either in literature or science, or by his philanthropy." The Mianowski Trust at Warsaw distributes the interest annually derived from a fund of a million dollars, to assist the publication of works on miscellaneous educational subjects. Madame Marie Curie, a native of Warsaw, discovered radium, and received the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1911.

One of the first notable figures in the history of Polish literature was the fearless Peter Skarga (1536-1612), who, as orator, writer and reformer, "created works destined for immortality." The most

famous of Matejko's paintings depicts Skarga preaching to the Poles.

"The best evidence of the vitality of the Polish nation," declares an interpreter of Polish affairs, "is that its finest literary achievements are subsequent to the period when its body was torn asunder." Towering above all the poets of the Romantic epoch, following the final partition in 1795, Adam Mickiewicz (mits-kee-ev'-ich), *Słowacki* (slo-vats'-kee), and *Krasinski*, stand "like giant oaks among saplings." Mickiewicz, a Lithuanian Pole, born in 1798, is called the Polish Longfellow. Driven from his own country by the Russian Government, he continued to write, wherever he might be—in Russia, France, Germany, Switzerland—inspired poems of sentiment and patriotism, many of them filled with descriptions of his country, for which he constantly longed. The works for which he will be longest remembered are "Ode to Youth," "Conrad Wallenrod," "Forefathers," and the national epic, "Lord Thaddeus," "that prodigious invocation of ancient Polish times so dear to every Polish heart." George Sand compared this most gifted of Polish poets with Byron and Goethe. "In *Pan Tadeusz*," Georg Brandes declares, "Poland possesses the only successful epic our century has produced. . . . A work at once popular and imperishable."

It was during the life of Mickiewicz that great numbers of men who lived by the pen emigrated from Poland, due to intolerable conditions that existed after the unsuccessful revolution against Russia, in 1830. Many poets have earned a place of distinction for their pictures of the country and its suffering. Among novelists of vogue and influence in the nineteenth century, *Kraszewski* (krah-shev'-skee) occupies a most important place. Polish novelists resort almost exclusively to native scenes for the backgrounds of their tales. The school of writers of historical fiction is smaller, but not less forceful. One of this school, Henryk Sienkiewicz (syen-kee-ev'-ich), author of "Quo Vadis," won the Nobel Prize for literature and is credited with having "brought the Polish novel to its height." In the trilogy, "With Fire and Sword," "The Deluge," and "Pan Wolodyowski" (vol-od-yov'-skee), he has told with incomparable power the story of his nation's past. As Poland's foremost novelist, his death in 1917 was mourned by the world of readers.





IN THE CITY HALL, Lwow (LEMBERG), POLAND

### POLONIA, by Jan Stęka—*Constitution Third of May, 1791*

**T**HE first partition of Polish territory took place in 1772. By a supreme effort the Poles enacted, on May 3, 1791, a constitution which proposed certain vital reforms, and had for its keynote, "All power in a state emanates from the will of a nation."

Stęka has seized upon the exalted moment when all classes of Poles, inspired by the hope of releasing the motherland from her bonds, respond to the summons of the national hero, Thaddeus Kosciuszko. He stands, banner in hand, urging noblemen and peasants, warriors and intellectuals, to liberate Polonia, enchained on the rock above them. In the valley, riding off in a chariot, are traitor nobles who had earned the scorn of true sons of Poland by bargaining away the independence of the nation. Pulaszi and Joseph Poniatowski are in the group on Kosciuszko's right. To the left of the standard is the figure of Adam Mickiewicz, greatest of Polish poets, with a staff. Other poet-patriots and historians are in the group behind him. Moniuszko, the composer, and Matejko, most celebrated of Poland's historical painters stand near the base of the cross. The free Constitution was overthrown by Russia and autocratic government restored in Poland in 1792.

**C**HAMPION of the Christian faith, consoler of the oppressed, upholder of culture against barbarism, progenitor of democracy and freedom, Poland's role in history has from earliest times been a heroic one. The Polish state, which had its beginning dim centuries ago in a union of Slavonic tribes on the plains of east

central Europe, stood like a rampart against infidel hordes that would have invaded Western nations. "Poland was the sentinel that kept watch at the eastern gate of Europe, while Latin peoples flowered and taught the world." Said Victor Hugo, "While my own dear France was the missionary of Civilization, Poland was its knight."

There is not room to consider here the multiplicity of wars, the formation of unions and sundering of alliances, the restless surge of Polish armies between ever-shifting frontiers, the knightly exploits of her crusaders, the struggle between distinct and conflicting social classes; or to relate all the contributing forces that brought about the dismemberment of the state, and, following the Great War, its partial rehabilitation. But briefly we may survey some of the emphatic episodes, epochs and personalities in which the Poles have righteous pride and glory.

The first house of Polish kings was founded by Piast over a thousand years ago. Mieszko I (mee-esh'-ko) bestowed two enduring benefits upon his country when, in the year 966, he adopted the religion of his Bohemian bride and became a Roman Catholic. He cut the foundation from the pretension of the Germans that their repeated invasions were actuated by a desire to redeem Poland for Christianity; and he brought the nation into touch with Western ideals, as opposed to Eastern influences exerted upon the Russian and other groups of the Slavonic race, whose religion had its source in Constantinople.

The story of Poland as a nation began with the reign of Mieszko I and his son, Boleslaus the Brave, an inveterate war-maker, who, together with two others of his name, vastly improved the position of his country among the nations of Europe. At the death of the "Polish Charlemagne," the kingdom of Poland had a population of two millions, and controlled an area that extended from the Black Sea to the Baltic, and from the River Dnieper on the east to the German and Bohemian boundaries.

King Casimir the Great (1333-1370), a statesman-soldier, established law and justice, founded a university at Cracow (which became the capital in the thirteenth century), and subordinated the ambitions of domineering nobles to the will of the commoners. With the rise of the Jagiello (yah-gel'-lo) dynasty (1386-1572), the nobility and gentry again came into control. A constitution was adopted, and laws

were enacted by an Upper and a Lower House of Legislature. Kings were elected from among the nobles. This was the first example of the Democratic Parliamentary System in Europe.

Under Sigismund II, last of the Jagiellons, Poland reached the apex of her influence, commercially, politically and intellectually. The Jagiello dynasty marked the attainment of a powerful place in European politics, and the most respected position among Slavonic nations.

A forceful figure in Polish affairs was King Stephen Batory. He had a quick, sure hand in war, as Ivan the Great of Russia and others of his enemies found out. He founded in 1578 the University of Wilno, in Lithuania. John Sobieski, son of a rich family of commoners, who was elected king in 1676, put Civilization in his debt by routing Mustafa, a general of the Ottoman Empire, who, in 1683, besieged Vienna, and threatened to crush beneath the heel of Mohammed all western Europe.

During the century 1696-1795, Poland, "inseparable companion of Liberty, deliverer of Europe from Infidelity and Slavery," became the prey of designing neighbors on the east and on the west. Three times in the latter part of the eighteenth century its territory was divided between Russia, Prussia and Austria. Kings looked with apprehension upon the working of the leaven of democracy in the midst of autocratic Europe. With the final partition, in 1795, the ancient state of Poland was brought to an end. Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Count Casimir Pulaski, Prince Joseph Poniatovski (po-nyah-tov'skee)—these are the heroic figures that flash forth most boldly on the panorama of history at this tragic period.

Under the despotic rule of three monarchs, Poland suffered appalling humiliation and persecution for a hundred and twenty years. Four times the Poles rose in fierce but vain revolt. Though enchained anew, they retained their individuality and that "passionate desire to live" which flames today more fiercely than ever before, now that the banner of the White Eagle is uplifted again above a nation restored to independence.

It is Peace with Freedom that Poland prays for—"peace with the fulfilment of her fairest traditions, the achievement of her dearest desires; freedom to take again her place as the outpost of that Western culture and liberty in whose cause she has waged such glorious warfare in the past."



THE OPERA HOUSE AND THEATER, WARSAW



**T**HE art history of the Polish people had its beginning in the tenth century, with the coming of Christianity. Brothers of holy orders, introduced into the country by Boleslaus the Brave, reared churches in which Western architectural lines were modified by the curious structural graces of Byzantium. Many edifices still existing

in various parts of Poland present interesting examples of the union of European and Asiatic—Roman and Byzantine—art ideas. In the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the pointed, or Gothic, arch was employed by the designers of Polish churches, but with variations that gave sufficient distinction to merit the special term, "Vistula-Gothic," or, because most buildings were of brick, "Brick Gothic." In this epoch there arose on the height above the River Vistula at Cracow the rebuilt walls of the precious cathedral of the Wawel, originally constructed in the Romanesque style.

The influence of Italian artists was supreme in the Middle Ages, when Poland was in her glory. The palace of the Wawel, and the chapel of King Sigismund within its gates, are the finest specimens of Italian Renaissance architecture in Poland, and among the finest in Europe. Many other buildings throughout the land offer them the tribute of artistic imitation.

Early native painters of Cracow and Poznan (Posen) formed art guilds, or corporations, which offered the advantage of foreign study to gifted young members. When these youths returned home, "laden with the rich spoil of technical knowledge," they contributed their talents to the decoration of ecclesiastical and palatial interiors. They painted the walls of such splendid churches as St. Mary's, Cracow, and the cathedral in Gniezno, and they carved elaborate religious groups and the tombs of national heroes. Wit Stwos (veet stvosh) was the best sculptor of his times in east-central Europe. A number of his masterpieces in wood and bronze are treasured in Cracow, where he founded a school of art in the sixteenth century.

Stanislaus Poniatowski, last king of Poland, encouraged the presence of artists at his court, among them the painters, Chodowiecki (ho-do-vee-ets'-kee) and Kucharzski, whose portraits of Marie Antoinette and Countess Potocka (po-tots'-ka) gave them popular fame. Polish painting as a school began with the ascendancy of the inspired patriot-painter, Artur Grottger, and Jan Matejko (ma-tay'-ko), a colossus of the nineteenth century. Matejko's two hundred and forty canvases, many of them gigantic in size, and equally gigantic of theme, tell the poignant story of Poland. He gave away many of his paintings, and often decorated sacred walls without pay. His pictures are in Cracow, Warsaw, the Vatican Gallery, Rome, and in Vienna. Matejko is beyond compare as a paint-

er of history. Matejko is magnificent!

Chelmonski (hel-mon-skee) painted "glorious mornings, ardent moons, bewitching nights." Wyspianski (vis-pee-an'-skee) was a poet, a painter and engraver of strong individual talent. Styka the elder and his son have a distinctive place in Polish art. The allegorical painting, "Polonia," reproduced in gravure in this number of *The Mentor*, is representative of the father's skill as a portraitist and portrayer of heroic episodes. The Poles excel in historical painting, in the picturing of nature, and in decorative art. Modern Polish sculptors have done some excellent original work. Exhibitions are frequently held in Warsaw under the patronage of the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts, and in Cracow and Poznan by the Societies of the Friends of Art.

Cracow, cradle of national art, was a music center of note as far back as the year 1430. Other Polish cities produced famous music-makers during centuries that followed. In a village near Warsaw, in February, 1810, there was born the greatest of Polish composers, who revealed to the world the rich harmonic and melodic values of Poland's hauntingly beautiful folk-songs and dance music. Chopin's father was French, but his mother was Polish, and he was brought up and educated according to Polish ideals. He wrote music in which we hear the soul of a people singing. He has been called "the first composer to embody the spirit of a nation in music. He has created in music what Mickiewicz created in poetry, and Matejko in painting; he has expressed the whole spirit of a people." Chopin employed the themes of the Polonaise and other native dances as the musical foundation of works that "portrayed the pageantry of Polish life,"—lively at times, more often melancholy, but infused with a "sensual feeling of plaintive tenderness very different from despair."

Moniuszko (mo-nee-ush'-ko), born a decade after Chopin, was the founder of the national opera of Poland. None of his compatriots has equaled the sentimental appeal of "Halka," his masterpiece.

Chopin, Paderewski, Moszkowski, (moshkov'-skee), Sliwinski, were masters of the pianoforte. Wieniawski (vee-nee-of'-skee) was famed as a violinist and composer. Madam Sembrich and the De Reszke (resh-ke) brothers have enriched the operatic history of America and Europe by their vocal interpretations.









HE "common sense" of the Polish peasant is a national tradition. His strength and practicality and his unswerving patriotism offset the excessive refinements and emotionalism of the aristocrat—the aristocrat whose selfish aspiration and unruly temperament have cost Poland some of the bitterest experiences in

her national life. Before the ruthless feet of millions of soldiers trampled the wheat fields of the plains, razed thousands of villages, and left millions of people homeless, those broad unfenced acres, enlivened by colorful little groups of homes, were the abode of comparative peace and contentment. Farmers and their families spent their days tilling the soil and tending the gardens that separated the white-washed cottages.

These cottages, with their mossy roofs, are intensely suggestive of the character of the owners—sentimental, artistic—but practical. In southern Poland, Galician farmers take considerable pains in the symbolic decoration of the outer house walls. One design is especially reserved for a naive announcement. . . a border of geometrical forms is applied in color around the door and window frames, that all unmarried young men may know by its presence that there is a maiden within who is of an age to take a husband.

Most of the houses have two rooms; one of them the peasant allots to his pigs and chickens, with the same degree of unselfish consideration that the Spanish villager devotes a share of his living space to his esteemed donkey. A corner of the family room, where everybody eats and sleeps, is given over to a high square brick heater, peculiar to all Slavonic communities, rich and poor. The top of the stove is a coveted sleeping-place in winter-time, usually conceded to an aged member of the family.

To describe the garments of the average countrywoman one needs a veritable palette of brilliant adjectives. Perhaps it is because the surrounding country is oft-times dreary and flat that the Polish farm-folk choose bright-tinted clothes and adornment. A hereditary possession is the coral necklace that encircles the full brown throats of these handsome women. Their men, usually bare of foot and head, wear linen clothing and, in cold weather, a waist-length jacket lined with sheepskin. In the summer one sees mountaineers of the Tatras wearing jackets like these across their shoulders, but with the lining out, "to keep the sun off."

Most farmers own their own small piece of land. The women have a laborious existence after marriage, and show it in their stooped shoulders and dull eyes. The life

of the people, though close to the soil, is free from vulgarity. Love of song and poetry is innate. At harvest time there are festivities sentimental and gay, sprung from legendary customs.

The peasant of Poland has some education, but more religion. He has been called "the most devout peasant in the world—the most faithful of all the adherents of the Church of Rome." Nothing gives him such happiness as the performance of a pilgrimage to some sacred shrine. The customary greeting between friends is, "May Jesus Christ be praised," and the answer, "Forever and ever."

The rich land-owner's country home is ordinarily situated on a rise of ground above the settlement of farm workers, very much as in Russia. The house has a red roof and white walls, and usually stands in a clump of trees—linden, or birch, or poplar. There is invariably a broad, hospitable porch. A curious feature is the proverbial nest of storks that exists on most of these estates. The occupants of the manor house dance, hunt and dine with their well-to-do neighbors, and observe with native enthusiasm the many holidays of the Polish calendar. At Christmas and Eastertide the whole countryside is astir with religious and social observances. Special dishes are prepared, and hearty feasts partaken consisting of a great variety of appetizers, and cold soup, meat pies, game, sweets and tea. Numbers of servants are employed in the service of such meals, and the liveries are often impressive.

Poland is a "land of villages and country houses, of peasants and squires."

During Carnival time, after the New Year, everyone that can afford to do so makes a journey to the nearest city to enjoy concerts and the theater, and to indulge in the lively intellectual pleasures that mean so much to the cultured Pole.

The social system of Poland has six general divisions—the aristocracy, consisting of a dozen of the oldest and most honorable families, the titled nobility, the landed proprietors, the merchants, the farmers, the industrial workers, and the Jews. Each class is controlled by laws and customs which are, however, less rigidly observed since War broke down barriers that have existed for centuries between aristocrat and commoner, farmer and city dweller.



# POLAND—Her Problems and Ideals

By the Hon. HUGH GIBSON, American Minister to Poland



OUR friendship for Poland would not be well served by blinking the very real problems that face the Polish Government, the very serious obstacles that remain to be overcome.

It is perhaps safe to say that no Government, since orderly Governments were established, has been faced with so many serious problems, so many vital problems, at one time.

I would like to point out that we must not try to estimate the situation there on the basis of our own standard at home. The people of Poland have a capacity for suffering and for recuperation that we have no idea of. And we must try to think in terms of Poland.

For one thing, Poland has practically no settled frontiers, with a consequent inability to dispose of the rich natural resources of Silesia-Teschen, Galicia, and the great forests of the East, until she has reached some sort of solution of those problems. That is not a matter that lies in her hands. She is waiting for plebiscites; she is waiting for a new Russia to emerge from chaos, with whom she can conclude agreements as to her Eastern frontiers; she is doing every blessed thing she can in maintaining orderly government within the limits held by the Polish armies.

Another problem is the devastation of the whole country, a devastation of which we can have no conception. Then there is the charge of militarism. The Poles are supposed to be careering around militaristically. They do take a great enthusiasm in serving in the Polish army, but they waited one hundred and fifty years for the privilege of marching in those ranks under their own flags. I think we might have a little enthusiasm, too, in that way.

Then there is the charge of imperialism. They are supposed to be setting out to conquer the world. As a matter of fact, that charge grows chiefly from the clamorings of a small group of people who do not represent either the Government or the sound public opinion of the people. Nobody pays much attention to them in Poland, but I am sorry to say they get some sort of hearing abroad.

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Both the Government and the people have made it clear repeatedly that they realize that the thing for them to do is to set up an effective government within a territory that is Polish, not only historically, but in the desire to be governed from Warsaw. They also realize that if they support the neighboring peoples—like the Lithuanians, and the White Russians, and Ukrainians—with sympathetic and active support, the natural tendency will be for these peoples, in time, to turn to Poland for support and co-operation.

The railway system is rapidly getting better. Food distribution is improving day by day. And in spite of the sufferings of six years, the progress of the past few months has been sufficient to key the army and the civil population to a high pitch, which gives us every reason to hope that Poland will pull through, overcome all her obstacles, and establish herself as a center of orderly government that is essential to the maintenance of peace in Eastern Europe.

From an address delivered before the American-Polish Chamber of Commerce, New York, May 27, 1920.



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